

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2011
ISAAC MILLS HOUSE
ST. JAMES, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Vice Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Chairman, Town of Islip
Michael J. Domino	Trustee, Town of Southold
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Richard Hollborn	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Amy Engel	Member of the Board
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PARKS DEPARTMENT

Joseph Montuori	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Dept.
Pamela Greene	Director, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions & Mgmt.
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property,
	Acquisitions and Management
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

PUBLIC PORTION

There were not any members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2011

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee McKay seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Montuori reported on the following:

- The West Hills Stables contract is almost complete.
- The Gardiners Dog Park is moving ahead. We have a local business owner who wants to donate his time and material. Legislator Cilmi also has Long Island Dog involved in this project.
- The Indian Island Restaurant permit has been approved by the Board of Health. We're hoping to have the restaurant opened for Memorial Day weekend.
- The staff did a wonderful job with the new camping reservation system.
- The camping numbers and golf numbers are down. We hope to make up for all the bad weather we've had.
- Tom Malanga did a wonderful job at the Earth Day Awards Dinner.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dawson said all the Trustees received a copy of a letter from Mr. Brian Brady regarding the netting at Bergen Point Golf Course.

Chairman Dawson reported the Earth Day Awards Dinner was very nice. Tom Malanga did an excellent job.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported on an ongoing issue. In 2009 Legislator Cooper put in a resolution (I.R. 1239-2009) allowing the Vanderbilt Museum to erect a cell tower on the museum property. The museum property is actually parkland property. All 43 acres of the park, including all the buildings, are on the National Registry of Historic Places. Back in 2009, Deputy Bellone went on a tour of the Vanderbilt property with Nick Gibbons and Richard Martin to review potential cell tower locations. There were some environmental concerns, certainly historic concerns and Parks concerns. At that time the Vanderbilt was going to have some site renderings done and then come back to the Parks Trustees. Last month we learned that they are proceeding and they went to CEQ yesterday without any discussion with the Parks Trustees or the Department. CEQ expressed concerns about the alienation of parkland issue with having cell towers on parks property. They have tabled the matter asking for a County Attorney opinion. The Parks Department has had cell tower discussions in the past. We were looking to install one at Theodore Roosevelt County Park for emergency purposes, which is why it was permitted. There was also a letter submitted from the Town of Huntington yesterday at the CEQ meeting. They also have concerns about having a cell tower at this location. CEQ has asked for additional renderings with views from the mansion and from the Village of Northport.

Trustee McKay reported that Huntington Town Supervisor, Frank Petrone, is deeply concerned about this issue and wrote a long letter to the Suffolk County Environmental Projects Coordinator, Michael Mule. Some of the highlights of that letter are:

- On May 16, 2011 the Huntington Town Board adopted revisions to the Town Code relative to new cell towers. If this were a proposal for property owned by the Town of Huntington, it would be subject to a public hearing. Has any similar notice been sent to the community surrounding the museum site? There is no indication of this.
- There are no approved cell towers located on town parkland in the Town of Huntington.

- There is concern about the commercial use of a component of County parkland and the potential impact to adjacent residential communities.
- The visual impact of a 140 foot cell tower.
- The plan indicates 6 additional antennas. Will they be visible?
- Is the proposed antenna compatible with the goals of the North Shore Heritage Management Plan and the Gold Coast thematic area?
- The Village of Northport directly opposite the site was not on the distribution list and should have an opportunity to comment.
- The tower will have a visual impact on the adjacent areas with the tower extending 100 plus feet above the tree line.
- There is a concern that erecting a cell tower on County parkland will set a precedent affecting other parklands.

Trustee McKay reported the Town of Huntington is very much opposed to this. The Parks Trustees were never asked to review and comment on this proposal. While the Vanderbilt Museum has its own Board, it's still Suffolk County parkland. They completely bypassed the Parks Trustees. Trustee McKay suggested we communicate our concerns to the Parks Committee of the Legislature. He would request that they consider the implications of this for future applications on or in Suffolk County parkland.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone said the Parks Department was invited to the initial meeting on this issue because the Vanderbilt recognized that it was parkland. Several letters were sent to Noel Gisch, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Vanderbilt, stressing the need for the Parks Department and the Parks Trustees to review this. We only found out from a member of our staff, who was at the CEQ meeting yesterday, that this issue was on the agenda.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that CEQ tabled this issue pending an opinion from the County Attorney on the alienation of parkland issue and also requested additional renderings. Yesterday, at the Historic Trust portion of the CEQ meeting, Maryann Spencer, Chair of the Historic Trust Committee for Suffolk County and who sits on CEQ, voiced major opposition to the location of the cell tower.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone said she would email the Parks Trustees a copy of I.R. 1239-2009 and a copy of the letter from Huntington Town Supervisor, Frank Petrone to Michael Mule, the Suffolk County Planning Department's Environmental Projects Coordinator.

Trustee McKay thought the Trustees should draft a letter outlining our concerns that if this is approved, it could potentially set a precedent for other parkland. The letter should request that the Trustees have the opportunity to further review and comment on this proposal.

A motion to transmit a letter to the Chair of the Parks Committee, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Chair of the Vanderbilt Board of Trustees was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-2. Trustee Engel and Trustee Shilling abstained.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Domino reported the Town of Southold recently hired a land management specialist. She has asked Trustee Domino to inquire on the status of the collaboration of a Draft Management Plan for two properties that are jointly owned by the Town and County: Blocker Property and Bitner Property.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded we are aware the agreements need to be drafted, but our priorities are drafting agreements with non-public entities. We do this because we know that public entities have the same interests that we do: protecting public lands, preserving environmental resources and providing recreational opportunities for the public.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16th, 2011 at the Isaac Mills House in St. James, NY.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Gooding. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.